

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /138 W
----- 117372

P R 031445Z AUG 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1821

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 6245

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: TRADE POLICY TEAM VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA - VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 185787

1. US MTN DEL (KNEPPER) DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT OF
AMBASSADOR YEUTTER WITH VENEZUELAN GENEVA AMBASSADOR
CASTALLANOS. CASTALLANOS NOTED DISCUSSIONS WOULD
PRESUMABLY BE HELD WITH OFFICIALS OF VENEZUELAN
INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN COMMERCE (ICE). HE BELIEVED IT
HIGHLY PROBABLY THAT A CENTRAL TOPIC OF CONSULTATION
WILL BE STATUS OF VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS
UNDER US GSP. CASTALLANOS NOTED THAT VENEZUELA'S OVERWHELMING
INTEREST IN FOREIGN TRADE HAD BEEN IN PETROLEUM. THIS
HAD NOT BEEN A SUBJECT EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH IN THE
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GATT, WITH VENEZUELA HAVING SOUGHT TO MAKE BILATERAL

ARRANGEMENTS WITH ITS PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS, ESPECIALLY THE US. CASTALLANOS MENTIONED THE REVISION OF THE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE US, JUNE 26, 1972, WHICH NOW ONLY INCLUDED BINDING OF US TARIFF ON PETROLEUM TO VENEZUELA AND ACCORDING VENEZUELA MFN TREATMENT.

2. CASTALLANOS SAID VENEZUELA WAS NOT ACTIVELY CONSIDERING GATT MEMBERSHIP, POINTING TO OVERWHELMING INTEREST IN PETROLEUM. HE SAID ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS FUTURE COURSE OF INTEGRATION. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO GET ANDEAN INTEGRATION AGREED UPON BEFORE BEGINNING TO NEGOTIATE ON POSSIBLE GATT MEMBERSHIP. CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANDEAN COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF, CASTALLANOS BELIEVED CHILE WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAD DESIRED A HIGHER CXT BUT HE BELIEVED THAT RECENT ECONOMIC POLICIES IN CHILE MIGHT BRING SOME CHANGE IN THIS POSITION. CASTELLANOS NOTED HE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER G77 MEETING IN MEXICO CITY CONCERNING COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. CONCERNING MTN SPECIFICALLY, CASTELLANOS NOTED THAT TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED (SEE GENEVA MTN 5841)

4. US MTN DEL COMMENTS: VENEZUELA GENEVA MISSION HAS A THIRD SECRETARY, JOSE M. QUINTERO, WHO ATTENDS MOST MTN MEETINGS, BUT DOES NOT SPEAK, SINCE COLOMBIA, SERVES AS SPOKESMAN. TELASIO PULGAR OF ICE IN CARACAS HAS ATTENDED SOME MTN MEETINGS IN PAST, BUT HAS NOW BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DUTIES AND PRESUMABLY WILL NOT ATTEND IN FUTURE. LIKE BRAZIL, VENEZUELA HAS REFUSED TO CONSULT BILATERALLY ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN THE QR GROUP TO PROVIDE PROCEDURE FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT FOR LDCS. US MAY WISH TO USE VISIT TO REITERATE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING CONSULTATIONS TO EXCHANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION UNDER QR SUBGROUP PROCEDURES

CULBERT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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